THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FERTILIZERS IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. PRABHU): (a) to (c) Haldia Fertilizer Project is still a project and has not started commercial production. As there were frequent equipment problems during the commissioning of the plant, Government decided in October, 1986, to stop commissioning activities without any retrenchment of workers. It has, however, been decided to undertake an end-to-end survey of the project for which consultants are being engaged.

Indebtedness of tribal people

725. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that indebtedness among the tribals has increased inspite of the implementation of the Integrated Tribal Development Projects; and

(b) if so, whether Government are coming forward with liberal schemes to help the tribals to improve their own standard of living?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) The Programme Evaluation Organisation (PEO) of Planning Commission recently conducted an evaluation of Integrated Tribal Development Projects (ITDPs) on sample tribal household basis in 10 ITDPs in 7 States, according to which the extent of indebtedness had tended to increase between 1975-76 to 1982-83. However this was primarily due to shift in the pattern of borrowing from short-term consumption loan from money lenders to long and medium term borrowing from Banks and Cooperatives productive purposes.

(b) Apart from the IRDP and lending at concessional rates by Banks, the ITDPs are taking up economic and welfare schemes to improve the tribals' standard of living. Economic programmes are taken up in agriculture, horticulture, sericulture, animal husbandry, handlooms, cottage industries, minor irrigation and in other sectors like small business etc. Emphasis is given on housing, education, health and drinking water. The States have been advised to implement social and protective legislation in the fields of land alienation, debt relief, etc.

Import of edible oils

726. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any measures to check the quality of the edible oils imported from other countries; and

(b) what other steps have been taken by Government to avoid the import of sub-standard edible oils?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT): (a) and (b) The import contract signed by State Trading Corporation with foreign suppliers provides for the detailed quality and specifications to which the oil should conform. In the case of refined oils, quality is final as per samples drawn from ships tanks at the time of loading and ceritfied by surveyors/analysts nominated by buyers at the sellers expense. Arrangements exist to test the imported oils both at the loading as also at the discharge port to check that oil is as per prescribed specifications. In addition the Government have also provided for drawing of samples, analysis thereof from either laboratories of Public Health Authority or from different Government laboratories approved by them and clearance of the oils for human consumption by Port Health Authorities who clear it from the PFA Act angle before the customs are permitted to discharge oil into land tank of the buyers P.H.A. clearance is a must for refined as well as crude oils. In addition officers of the Directorate of Vanaspati, Vegetable